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Front cover: Image by Loren Strong, Newcastle University of *Tectocoris diophthalmus*, the cotton harlequin bug, that won first place in the Student Colour section of the AES Illustration competition in 2005.

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His Excellency, Major General Michael
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of the Commonwealth of Australia

SOCIETY SUSTAINING

ASSOCIATES

**Integrated Pest Management (Bugs for
Bugs)**

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NOTICE

Statements made in *Myrmecia* do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Entomological Society. Items printed herein should not be reproduced without permission of the author of the material.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Core Executive met in Orange on 11

From the Minutes

The Executive has been seeking paid clerical support to assist the secretary and treasurer with their duties, particularly to enhance communication with members and preparation of papers for the AGM.

Agreement has been reached with the Entomological Society of Queensland that the first five volumes of the journal, which were actually published by the Qld society, will be included in digitising the entire back issues of the Society's journal. Access to the digitised back issues will be freely available on the Blackwells website although ownership will remain with the two societies. The digitisation of the journal is being funded from funds generated by ICE 2004.

As noted in the Treasurer's report, progress has been made on establishing a research grants scheme, funded by interest generated from the ICE profits. It is hoped that the first grants can be made during 2007. A request for applications, which will be for a maximum of \$1000, will be made in a future issue of *Myrmecia*.

Murray FLETCHER
Vice President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks for the Response

In the May *Myrmecia* I appealed for information to help me locate a member for whom some details were missing. The response from readers was both helpful and encouraging. Thanks to all those who contacted me and yes we sorted the matter out very quickly.

Research Grants Fund

For those who have been following the saga of the ICE surplus through the pages of this news bulletin, the Executive has now finalised the matter based mostly on members' suggestions from last year's AGM. Funds have been set aside to digitise all back issues of the Society journal under its two previous titles and access to those will be made available to all without charge. An education initiative has been ear-marked for support. The balance has been set aside in an interest-bearing account to provide one or more small research grants for members of the Society. The first of these should be available for allocation in mid-2007. More details will be available at the AGM.

Subscription Receipts

All receipts requested for subs paid in the 2005/06 financial year have been either emailed or posted to members. If you did request a receipt and it hasn't reached you yet, contact me by email via thwaiteau@yahoo.com.au or phone 02 6362 9498.

Proposal to Alter the Subscription Year

The AES Constitution states that its financial year ends on 30 June each year (clause 19) but that the subscription year commences from 1 January (clause 21). There is a good case for aligning the two, so the Executive will sponsor a motion at the September 2006 AGM to do that. I'm sure many members will find this a lot more convenient because at present, subscription notices arrive with the Christmas mail at home or during university vacation. If the proposal is approved, it will mean that there will need to be two subscription payments

during 2007, the first from 1 January to 30 June 2007 and the second for the full year from 1 July 2007. While this will mean extra cost for the Society and extra work for its officer bearers, I believe it will be the best solution in the longer term to the logistical problem we have now.

Graham THWAITE (Treasurer)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our newest members:

Elected 13 April 2006

- Miss Sagrario GAMEZ-VIRUES
Charles Sturt University, Orange
New South Wales (Student Member)

Elected 11 May 2006

- Mr Michael NASH
Mortlake, Victoria and
University of Melbourne
Victoria (Student Member)
- Mr Ross RICKARD
AQIS, Mascot
New South Wales (Full Member)
- Miss Iona SYMONS
Oatley, NSW and
University of Sydney
New South Wales (Student Member)
- Mr Geoffrey WALKER
Murrumbidgee
Victoria (Retired Member)
- Miss Anna BURNS
Wodonga, Victoria and
Charles Sturt University, Albury
Victoria (Student Member)

Elected 8 June 2006

- Miss Aston ARTHUR
Epping, Vic and
University of Melbourne
Victoria (Student Member)
- Dr Paul UMINA
Greensborough, Vic and
University of Melbourne
Victoria (Full Member)

Resignations (2006)

Dr Keith HOUSTON, ACT (31/12/05)

Dr Errol HASSAN, QLD (31/12/05)

Ms Nina KURUCZ, NT (31/12/05)

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Some of our new members (see Executive Report) supplied information to assist us to know them better.

Sagrario Gamez-Virues came to Australia from Mexico to undertake a post graduate research project through Charles Sturt University at Orange NSW. The project is on the biological control of arthropods on farm trees. She previously gained an MSc in entomology and acarology from the postgraduate college at Texcoco, Mexico. Last year Sagrario undertook voluntary diagnostic work with Mexico's National Forest Commission. She co-presented a poster at the 2005 Society Conference at Canberra.

Michael Nash is a grain grower from Mortlake, Victoria who has an interest in biological control of invertebrate pests. This interest arose from practical problems he experienced when trying to adopt no-till farming systems. He completed a degree in biological science at La Trobe University in Melbourne and is now enrolled as a PhD student at the Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne.

Iona Symons is a PhD candidate through the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Sydney. She attended the ICE at Brisbane and gained a greater appreciation of the uniqueness of the Australian environment. Iona had previously studied horticultural science at

Sydney and is interested in whiteflies, especially *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* and *Bemisia tabaci*.

Anna Burns gained her BSc (Hons) at the University of Melbourne and is now a PhD student at the School of Environmental & Information Sciences at Charles Sturt University, Albury. Her topic is "Diversity and dynamics of the arthropod assemblages of mistletoe in remnant woodlands". This ties in nicely with her interests in plant-insect interactions and conservation biology. She lives on the southern side of the Murray in Wodonga.

Aston Arthur has an honours degree in biological sciences. Her avid interest in entomology, particularly pest species and their ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, inspired Aston to commence a PhD project with the CESAR group at the University of Melbourne. The research project aims to investigate the biology, ecology and population genetics of the mite genera *Balaustium* and *Bryobia* in southern Australia.

Paul Umina completed his undergraduate studies at La Trobe University in Melbourne. He went on to gain a PhD in Ecological Genetics and Biochemistry through La Trobe in 2003. Paul held a postdoctoral research position for a year at Monash University and is now part of the CESAR team at the University of Melbourne with a keen interest in IPM strategies. This led to his involvement in a GRDC initiative which

focuses on improved pest entomological research and extension on a national level.

BOOK REVIEW

Results of the zoological missions to Australia of the Regional Museum of Natural Sciences of Turin, Italy. II. Mauro Daccordi and Pier Mauro Giachino (editors). Monografie, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino, XLII. 2005. 643 pp. ISBN 88-86041-63-2. Euro 40.00 + postage. Obtain from Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, via Giolitti, 36, 10123 Torino (Italy). Email: anna.grassini@regione.piemonte.it

This is the second and last volume of research papers resulting from collecting trips to Australia undertaken by workers from the Regional Museum of Turin. Six missions altogether were completed, beginning in 1991 and covering most of the continent. The two mission leaders, Mauro Daccordi (specialist on Chrysomelidae) and Pier Mauro Giachino (Leiodidae and Carabidae), were joined by several other colleagues from time to time, and the material collected was worked up by them and by a number of additional specialists. The resulting 30 taxonomic papers published in both volumes describe 29 new names at genus level and 217 at species level, and include several revisions of genera and tribes. The first volume, published in 2003, contained articles on Carabidae (Giachino, Garetto, Baehr), Staphylinidae (Pace), Leiodidae-Cholevinidae (Giachino, Peck), Tenebrionidae (Matthews, Scupola), Scarabaeoidea (Barbero, Palestini, Bartolozzi), Chrysomelidae (Daccordi, De Little), Sphecidae (Pagliano), Eumenidae (Borsato) and Oligochaeta

(Sambugar, Pinder). The present volume of 13 collected papers includes a number of significant ones on Carabidae: notes on *Carenum* (Garetto, Giachino), a revision of the Australian species of *Bembidion* (Toledano), a revision of *Catadromus* (Giachino), new *Delinius* (Giachino, Picciau), a revision of *Rhabdotus* (Giachino), and notes on *Pseudoceneus* (Giachino). In Hydrophilidae there is a revision of *Laccobius* (Gentili), in Staphylinidae descriptions of many new Aleocharinae (Pace) and a revision of Australian Xantholinini (Bordoni), in Chrysomelidae new synonymy in Chrysomelinae and a new genus of Paropsina (Daccordi), and finally in Hymenoptera-Vespoidea, notes on *Pseudepipona* (Borsato). All articles are in English.

These papers are generally of a high standard of presentation with excellent illustrations of habitus and internal structures, including those of the minute Aleocharinae. Workers in Carabidae and Staphylinidae in particular will find much of interest in this second volume. The purchase price is surprisingly low considering that this is a high-quality hardbound publication.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Australian Antarctic Division is publishing the first comprehensive book on Macquarie Island Invertebrates. It is by

Penelope Greenslade. It covers the 350 or so terrestrial and freshwater species known from the island with the section on the 20 insect species by R. van Klinken and Penelope Greenslade.

The book is in full colour and is extensively illustrated with line drawings and colour photographs. There are keys to species of many groups and keys to higher taxa of all groups present. The section on Collembola details 30 species and is profusely illustrated. There is a section on biogeography.

This book will be available in July from:

Publications Officer

Australian Antarctic Division

Channel Highway

Kingston, Tasmania 7050

Email: publications@aad.gov.au or

Judy.Whelan@aad.gov.au

Telephone 61 3 (03) 6232 3477

Fax 61 3 6232 3598

As only a small number of copies are being printed at this time it might be advisable to pre-order. The cost of the book will be \$70.00 plus postage.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Field Officer (ongoing) positions with the Australian Plague Locust Commission
Salary commences \$39,874 p.a. including

travel and overtime allowances.

The APLC requires several new Field Officers, duties involve:

- conduct ground and aerial surveys to assess locust populations and environmental conditions.
- participate in locust control campaigns, including aerial and ground target search and marking plus assessment of control efficacy.
- assist in the operation and maintenance of a field-base and equipment.
- assist scientific staff in research and development work, e.g. field testing of insecticides, damage assessment and locust behaviour.

Selection requirements include;

- relevant formal training (e.g. degree) in a biological, agricultural or environmental science may be an advantage (desirable).
- manual car licence (mandatory) and experience in or ability to drive a 4WD vehicle in a range of conditions (desirable).
- willingness and ability to obtain a national heavy vehicle (truck) licence.
- certifications, by an approved authority, for handling of agricultural chemicals and for the transport of dangerous goods (desirable).
- suitable level of fitness (determined by medical examination prior to appointment).
- the occupant of this position is required to work for long periods under physically and environmentally demanding conditions in remote areas.
- applicants must be willing to accept deployment to any APLC location, namely at Narromine, Broken Hill, Longreach and Canberra.

These positions will likely be advertised in

The Weekend Australian (weekend of 1 to 2 July 2006) as well as other national and regional media. Contact details provided therein. Alternatively, contact Walter Spratt at the APLC: tel. (02) 6272 3358; email walter.spratt@daff.gov.au.

ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC AJE

For some time now the Executive has received questions from members as to how to access their subscription to electronic *Australian Journal of Entomology*. Some people seem to have few problems; others wonder where their journals have gone!

With the assistance of staff from Blackwell Publishing, we think this problem should now be solved. Every member who subscribes electronically should have received an email from Blackwell with instructions similar to those below. Your name and Member Code will have appeared in place of the "xxxxxxx" and "xxx" respectively.

Any member who has paid for an electronic subscription and has not received the email with instructions should contact Andrew Mitchell (andrew.mitchell@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or Graham Thwaite (thwaiteau@yahoo.com.au).

It is also important that if your email address changes, please notify us so that we can advise the publisher.

The Executive is now looking at the option of extended access to other volumes of the

Journal. This will be addressed in the near future and if appropriate, arrangements made with the publisher to grant this access.

Graham THWAITE (Treasurer)

Members of AES are now entitled to access Australian Journal of Entomology online via Blackwell Synergy!

*****Please read through these instructions FULLY before attempting to activate your access*****

Please follow these instructions to register for online access to **Australian Journal of Entomology** via the online journals delivery service from Blackwell Publishing, called *Blackwell Synergy*. You only need to use these instructions once and you will then be able to access **Australian Journal of Entomology** online through Blackwell Synergy.

If you have already registered on Blackwell Synergy

- Go to www.blackwell-synergy.com
- Enter your Username and Password at the top of the page.
- Click 'Login'.
- Your name will now appear at the top of the homepage and you can go straight to "**ACTIVATION**" below.

If you are new to Blackwell Synergy, please register

- Go to www.blackwell-synergy.com
- Click on 'Register' at the top of the page.

- Complete the registration page (remembering your choice of Username and Password for later).
- Your name will now appear at the top of the homepage and you can go straight to "**ACTIVATION**" below.

ACTIVATION: How to access the full-text of articles

- Click on the 'My Synergy' button at the top of the page.
- Click on the 'Access' tab.
- In the Offer Code box, enter your Offer Code: **AENS** and click 'Continue'.
- In the Last Name box, enter your last name **exactly** as it appears here: xxxxxxxx
- In the Member Id box, enter this number **exactly** as it appears here: xxx
Click 'Continue'.
- Your subscriptions will now be listed on the Journals tab. You can access your journal(s) from here or directly from the *Synergy* homepage.

And for next time you want to access Australian Journal of Entomology online...

- Go to www.blackwell-synergy.com
- Enter your Username and Password at the top of the page and click 'Login'.
- Select the journal you wish to access. You can choose to view just subscribed journals or all journals alphabetically or by subject, from the dropdown menu.
- Enjoy using **Australian Journal of Entomology** online!

ANY QUESTIONS? Please use the Synergy Online Help or contact synergy@asia.blackwellpublishing.com with registration queries.

REGIONAL NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Grant Herron attended UWS student seminars at the UWS Penrith campus on the 7th June. **Yingen Xue**, a PhD student that Grant has co supervised with **Andrew Beattie** and **Robert Spooner-Hart**, gave his final presentation prior to submitting his thesis " Effects of petroleum spray oil on the tri-trophic interactions between plant-two-spotted mite and its predator, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*."

The Parasitology groups have a project that aims to develop an on-farm test to diagnose lice infestation of sheep at shearing entering its final stages. The 'team' (**Paul Young, Irene Bate and Garry Levot**) met with Australian Wool Innovation staff and a possible commercial collaborator to map out the next phase of work which is to manufacture the immuno-diagnostic test kit.

Garry has been busy describing his research into insecticidal control of Small Hive Beetle, an accidentally introduced scavenger in bee hives. He addressed the New South Wales Apiarists' Association in Forster, the Victorian Apiarists' Association annual conference in Bairnsdale and was the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation sponsored speaker at the 8th Asian-Australian Apiarists' Association Conference in Perth.

Narelle Sales continued to test populations of sheep lice from infested sheep sourced from Victoria, western New South Wales and mobs run at EMAI for their susceptibility to the IGR diflubenzuron. This work is the main focus of the Australian Wool

Innovation funded project on insect growth regulator (IGR) resistance in sheep lice and blowfly larvae.

Garry recently completed a project on the depletion of diazinon residues in soils used for the on-farm disposal of spent sheep dips. Together with work on replenishment of diazinon sheep dips to maintain effective working conditions in plunge and shower dipping systems this work has been well-received by industry and Contract Sheep Dippers.

Nigel ANDREW

NSW DPI, Orange Agricultural Institute

Peter Gillespie, Michael Priest and others ran a workshop at OAI on 10 May about ISO17025 accreditation and how to achieve it. A number of plant health labs both in Australia and New Zealand are seeking such accreditation and recognised the lead that the ASCU laboratory has set by achieving ISO accreditation, particularly for fungal and fruit fly identifications. MAF (New Zealand) staff in attendance included Insect Lab manager **Alan Flynn**, **Brett Alexander** (Manager plant disease labs) and MAF Biosecurity manager **Veronica Herrera**. Staff from QDPIF also in attendance included **Jane Royer** (manager Cairns insect lab), **Sarah Cororan** (Brisbane - Plant Biosecurity) and **Peter McKinley** (Brisbane - QA). The one day workshop covered staff roles for participants, review of standard operating procedures, particularly for fruit fly and fungal identifications, the feasibility of interlabs and possible discussions of other interactions between agencies concerning other plant health testing and accreditation.

The highly successful meeting established some new contacts, reaffirmed points of similarity of testing for fruit flies and fungal pathogens and established a basis for interlaboratory testing between the participating agencies. It is hoped that this interagency cooperation can be continued to the benefit of all by recognising that common diagnostic standard(s) will promote higher plant biosecurity standards in all participating agencies.

Birgit Löcker is in the final couple of months of her PhD program and is feverishly writing chapter after chapter on the planthopper family Cixiidae.

Ms Yuwarin Boontop, a fruit fly entomologist from the Thai Department of Agriculture, spent a week in ASCU from 5-9th June as part of a DAFF capacity building program in Asia. During her visit she learned about fruit fly diagnostics, both morphological and molecular, from Mr Peter Gillespie. In addition she was shown various methods of developing diagnostic keys using electronic media and the use of some good data capture techniques. She enjoyed examining the ASCU insect collection but was happy to be returning home to the warmth of Thailand.

Murray FLETCHER

Gosford Horticultural Institute, Narara

Leigh Pilkington has returned from a postdoc position at the University of California, Riverside this year and has recently taken on a research entomologist position with the NSW Department of

Primary Industries. Leigh completed his PhD at the University of Sydney, Orange under the joint supervision of Geoff Gurr (formerly University of Sydney) and Murray Fletcher (NSW Department of Primary Industries) in December 2003. Leigh went on to be involved in research projects with the University of Sydney such as the RIRDC funded shelterbelt program which examined the influence of botanical diversity on the abundance of beneficial insects. In April 2004 Leigh joined **Mark Hoddle** at the University of California, Riverside and was involved in researching the developmental and reproductive biology of two *Gonatocerus* spp. that are associated with the biological control of *Homalodisca coagulata*, an important pest in southern California and in many parts of the world such as French Polynesia, Easter Island and Hawaii. During his time at the University of California Leigh published several articles on these parasitoid species and their potential efficacy as biological control agents. Leigh is now working with **Stephen Goodwin** at the Gosford Horticultural Institute, NSW DPI, as Research Entomologist. Primarily, Leigh will be involved in the development and extension of integrated pest management strategies to greenhouse vegetable growers in the Sydney basin. Part of the research work will involve two new Charles Sturt University PhD. students, the first is **Villiami (Willy) Heimoana**, formerly of

NSW Department of Primary Industries at Narrabri, while the second **Thomas Clark** is new the Australian entomology community and hails from the United Kingdom. Both Willy and Tom will be undertaking research examining the development of the predatory ladybird, *Hippodamia variegata*, and brown lacewing, *Micromus tasmaniae*, in their use as biological control agents in Brassica and other field and greenhouse vegetable crops.

While both their projects have an element of "dove tailing", both students intend to conduct their research independently with Willy being located in Orange Campus of Charles Sturt University with Geoff Gurr, and Tom conducting his research at the Gosford Horticultural Institute, NSW DPI, with Stephen Goodwin and Leigh Pilkington.

They have a hard three years ahead of them but both Willy and Tom bring unique skills and knowledge to this discipline and promise to present some exciting findings in this time.

Debbie KENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Australian Plague Locust Commission

With the onset of winter, the field season for Martin Steinbauer began to wrap-up. Martin and Alison Rodgers (formerly a member of the fire ant team in Brisbane) returned to Tambo, Qld, to lift the last of the food baits they have been using to measure termite activity in fipronil sprayed and unsprayed habitats. They also met with a local

landowner (Angus Ryrie from 'Ivanhoe' station) to select additional sites for a planned expansion of the trial in season 2006/2007 when Ralph Peveling from Switzerland will visit to collaborate in this project. Prior to this trip, Alison and Martin were busy sorting and identifying light trap catches from Martin's visits to Bourke this last spring and summer. Martin has also been reading-up on measuring soil moisture with a view to quantifying the water requirements of locust eggs. This has resulted in the purchase of two sets of equipment to measure and record volumetric water content, soil water potential, soil temperature and local rainfall. These "soil moisture stations" will be firstly setup on the red and black earth trial sites at Tambo to develop soil moisture and wetting profiles for these soil types. Fortunately for Martin, given that Tambo is a 2-day drive from Canberra, the dataloggers associated with these stations will be able to be downloaded remotely via CDMA connection. Martin and Alistair Drake (UNSW@ADFA) also submitted another ARC Linkage-Projects application to extend and improve the work already commenced to use Insect Monitoring Radars (IMR) to track migrating locusts. If successful, this project will purchase a He-filled tethersonde to sample migrating locusts tracked by a re-built mobile IMR. All these projects will make for an equally busy, perhaps more so, 2006/2007 season which is a daunting prospect for Martin given that Alison left for a position back in Brisbane on Friday 23 June! Hence, Martin hopes that readers will turn to the advertisement for Field Officers with the APLC in the employment section of *Myrmecia*. Martin Steinbauer, ACT Regional Councillor"

ANIC

We were saddened by the news of the death of **Ian Common** on June 3rd, just a few days before his 89th birthday. Ian was one of the most outstanding lepidopterists of our time. His major contributions included his comprehensive books *Butterflies of Australia* and *Moths of Australia*, as well as many other works on all aspects of the systematics and biology of Lepidoptera. Ian will be missed not only as an exceptional scientist but also as a wonderful colleague and friend to all who worked with him. ANIC was represented at Ian's Toowoomba funeral by **Ted Edwards**. A more comprehensive obituary will appear in a subsequent issue of *Myrmecia*.

David Yeates has been doing a lot of travelling recently. His trip to USA in March included a workshop of Tree of Life/Planetary Biodiversity Inventory principal investigators at Duke University, North Carolina, discussing common challenges and synergies between projects on different taxa. He also visited **Brian Wiegmann's** laboratory at North Carolina State University to continue work on their Diptera Tree of Life grant, and **Mike Irwin** in Tucson Arizona, for discussions on their PEET grant on Therevidae. In Sydney, David took part in a workshop of the ARC Environmental Futures Network run by **Dan Faith** and **Simon Ferrier** at the Australian Museum, discussing multidisciplinary approaches to key Australian biodiversity challenges.

In the Coleoptera laboratory, **Adam Slipinski** has received a new grant from ABRS to finish work on Lucid keys to

genera of Australian Coccinellidae. These keys will form part of a comprehensive web site on the ladybirds of Australia that is currently under construction by Adam, **Ben Boyd**, and **Anne Hastings**. The coccinellid program will also include a new project on a species-level revision of the subfamily Scymninae, with collaborators in USA, India and China.

Chris Lambkin has also received a new grant from ABRS to complete an Australian Faunal Directory of the Australian Therevidae (stiletto flies). This AFD will be used to beta test software developed by ABRS for easier transfer of checklist information to a web-interface to facilitate the dissemination of taxonomic information to the wider community, quickly and efficiently. A checklist including taxonomic names, author, type locality data and repository, and literature references will be produced for nearly 400 species of stiletto flies.

QUEENSLAND – FAR NORTH

AQIS

Between February and May, **Tony Postle** collected termites, ants, borers and stored-product pests from the quarantine holding areas for illegal foreign fishing vessels at Broome, Thursday Island, Gove and Darwin. Sniffing around in mangroves does wonders for the constitution! Several native species were discovered at previously unrecorded locations but no exotic insects were detected. Tony has been based in Cairns for a while now, and word is, both Tony and the rats have settled in nicely. Sad news from AQIS Cairns is that **Jodie Cheesman** has resigned from her position of Operational Entomologist. Jodie and

family will take up residence in beautiful Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tablelands, where they will own and operate the local school bus run. Keep an eye out for exotic bostrichids on the windscreen Jodie!

Another ex-Sydney sider **Sally Cowan** has joined the AQIS NAQS team in Mareeba as an entomologist where she will spend many hours identifying fruit flies, but there are other perks to the job. Unfortunately, little news has been forthcoming from AQIS of late. This appears to be due to official channels being bogged down with alphameric hinny guff, usually emanating from the deep south.

QDPI&F

Barry Moore has fled the Canberra weather again to spend a few weeks in the sunny north. While here he visited the Mareeba DPI&F to see **Ross Storey** and **Dave Rentz**, bringing with him all the news from down south. Rumour has it that all the sphingids and cicadas in the Kuranda top of the range area are now trembling in fear as a well known Sydney entomologist will soon be taking residence.

Latest exotic detection advice: *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Roger), also known as the electric or little fire ant, was detected in the Cairns suburb of Smithfield in early May. The ant was identified from a sample brought in to DPI&F by a member of the public. This represents the first detection of *W. auropunctata* in Australia. The main infestation is in a residential area located on a densely rainforested hilltop, with a smaller infestation located down a drainage system nearby. Intensive delimiting surveillance is being conducted in

the vicinity of the infestation, as well as traceforwards to high risk sites and waste streams, with much responding to suspect public reports. To date the infestation encompasses approximately 70 ha in Smithfield only. A joint State agency response has been mounted with three departments, being the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Water and Mines and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. **Sanford Porter** (USDA), **Bart Drees** (Texas A&M Uni), **Peter Davis** (WA Ag), and **Simon O'Connor** (Pacific Ant Prevention Program) have all visited the site and provided advice on biology and treatment. **Jane Royer** has been seconded to the Response Program for a eight weeks, with **Kylie Anderson** having a quick break from her PhD to back-fill for Jane.

David Astridge (DPI&F Centre for Wet Tropics Agriculture) is preparing for a trip to the Philippines as part of an ongoing ACIAR project on the development of IPM for mango production in Australia and the Philippines. He plans to visit Davao del Sur and Davao del Nor on Mindanao, Guimaras, and the Zambales area near Manilla. David has just completed the first data set of the study on the population dynamics of the fruit spotting bugs (*Amblypelta* spp.) on 8 mango farms in the Atherton Tablelands and Burdekin regions.

JCU

A new research collaboration between James Cook University's **Kylie Anderson** and **Brad Congdon**, BSES's **Mohamed Sallam** and **Rob Magarey** and Ramu Sugar Ltd's (PNG) **Kaile Korowa** and **Lastus Kuniata** has been successful in obtaining

ACIAR funding to extend Kylie's PhD research into PNG, and to conduct sugarcane variety resistance testing at Ramu Sugar. The broader aim of the project is to suggest integrated control options for the island cane planthopper *Eumetopina flavipes*, which vectors the nasty Ramu Stunt disease of sugarcane.

Update from Cyclone Larry Country

Bill Farnsworth (Agrisearch Services) and **Richard Piper** (Scientific Advisory Services) both survived cyclone Larry on exposed seaward-facing hillsides at Coquette Point and Cowley Beach respectively, near Innisfail on 20 March. Immediately after the cyclone, Richard's roof cavity was invaded by tettigoniid grasshoppers presumably seeking shelter after the destruction of the surrounding forest. The day of the cyclone and for a couple of days after, large butterflies such as the Cairns Birdwing and Ulysses were flying about desperately seeking nectar, however only birdwings have been observed in the area since that time. It will be interesting to see how long before they return to the area. Soon after the cyclone, Richards beehives had a virtual traffic jam at the entrance to each hive - nectivorous insects including cerambycids, native bees, wasps, butterflies and true flies all attracted to the honey odours emanating from the hive.

The biggest problem caused by insects after the cyclone were the plagues of drosophilids that sought food inside houses and were able to slip through insect screens. Both Bill and Richard were plagued by telephone calls from the public hoping for an easy solution. Enormous

numbers of adult *Drosophila* were produced from the decaying bananas and other fallen fruit. An internet search mentions a correlation between 'stomach bugs' and drosophilid visitation to foods and there seemed to be a higher incidence of this problem in the area after the cyclone, although this is anecdotal.

There has been a succession of various types of insects including many species of micro and macro Lepidoptera, Dermaptera and chironomids at house lights during the last few months. With the large amount of leaf litter and timber now lying on the forest floor and many tree species standing dead after the cyclone this is no surprise, and no doubt it will continue during the coming months.

A word of advice for any entomologists who may want to capture some of the amazing entomological happenings after you hopefully re-emerge from your house following a Category 5 cyclone - make sure that the batteries are charged on your digital and video cameras *before* the cyclone arrives!

In the rare 'free time' provided as a result of the destruction of banana, papaya and tropical fruit farms in the area, Richard is preparing a number of posters on ants and fruit flies, whilst Bill is preparing for trials on cattle ticks and buffalo fly and attending the 2006 Australian Society for Parasitology conference at the Gold Coast from 2-5 July.

Kylie ANDERSON and Richard PIPER

QUEENSLAND - SOUTH

DPI&F Indooroopilly:

Pat Collins led a team of researchers and extension agronomists to the annual meeting of the National Working Party on Grain Protection, held in May in Adelaide. Pat is the national Convener of the meeting. QDPI&F presentations included **Philip Burrill** on extension issues, **Greg Daglish** on sorption and new grain protectants, **Manoj Nayak** on psocid IPM and Pat Collins on insect resistance surveys and on a national phosphine resistance strategy. A major issue was discussion and endorsement of the national resistance management strategy by the meeting. In addition, delegates discussed the forthcoming bid by the grain industry to add a "Grain Hygiene" program to the CRC for Plant Biosecurity and to suggest potential projects for submission to the CRC bid Steering Committee.

Annice Lloyd from the Market Access Team in Horticulture & Forestry Science, DPI&F, recently organised a national workshop on area wide management of fruit flies in endemic areas. The workshop was held in Central Burnett where Annice and the Market Access Team are running a successful fruit fly AWM program (the Fruit Fly Force) since last three years. Twenty researchers from NSW, WA, Victoria, Torres St and other parts of Queensland attended the workshop. Other DPI&F personnel involved were **Ed Hamacek**, **Martin Shivas**, **John Hargreaves**, **Siva Subramaniam**, **Cameron Tree** and **Irene Kernot**. Central Burnett crop consultants, **Dan Papacek**, **Mal Wallis** and **Brian Gallagher**, who are members of the Fruit Fly Force team also contributed their entomological expertise to the workshop. AWM experiences were shared and essential components for future fruit fly

AWM programs were identified.

More than 3.5 years after taking early retirement from Queensland Department of Primary Industries, **John Rogers** is living proof that there is life after being a state government entomologist. These days, (as **'Research Connections and Consulting'** at www.rcac.net.au) he is fully occupied with a range of consultancy activities in the entomology and science-policy areas. So far this year, John has done consultancy work as diverse as modelling the naturalisation potential of cotton in north-east Australia and reporting on the efficacy of a range of pesticides. As well, he has been a reviewer for the Queensland Government's Smart State Fellowships and recently provided independent support for an External Review of DPI&F's Science Quality as part of that organisation's preparations for the introduction of the Research Quality Framework. In between these activities, John has continued to publish papers in refereed journals. Recently, a quartet of papers was published from the ACIAR project that he led on white grubs in peanut/ groundnut in India and Australia. These covered white grub ecology and population dynamics, crop loss assessment, the results of species surveys across southern India, and (inevitably) management with insecticides. As well, the first of a series of papers on weediness risk-assessment for GM crops, based on recent consultancy work, is expected to be accepted for publication soon.

David Holdom will be attending the International Colloquium for Invertebrate pathology in Wuhan, China from August 27 to September 01. He will present a paper entitled "Grain-Based Production of the Entomopathogenic fungus *Nomuraea rileyi*"

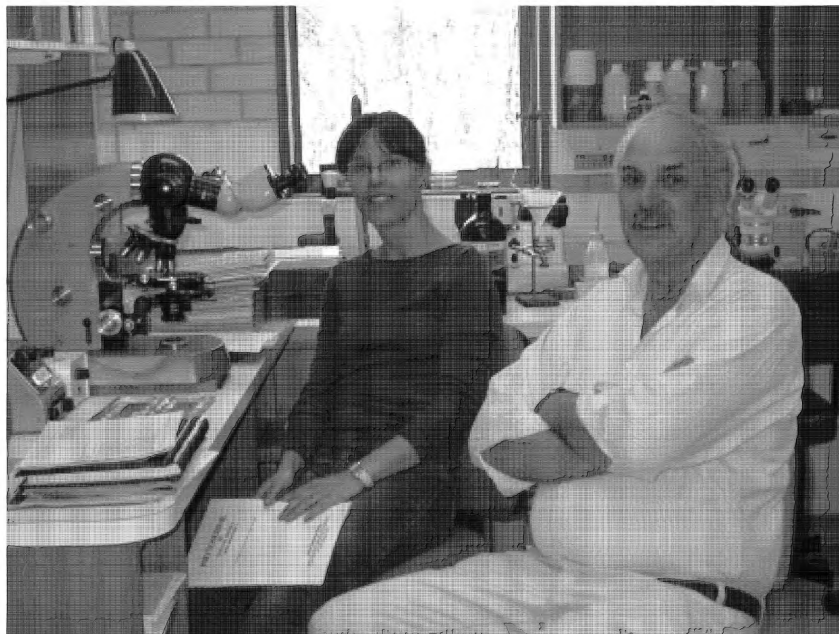
based on work done at DPI&F, Indooroopilly. This will be a belated swan song as he now works in the Strategic Policy section of the department, researching medium to long term issues so far covering just about everything except entomology!

CSIRO Entomology Long Pocket Laboratories:

After a long stint at Long Pocket (since 1974), **Mic Julien** moved to France in late April, replacing **Andy Sheppard** as Officer-in-Charge at CSIRO Entomology's laboratory in Montpellier. Mic's weedy career has included research on lantana, doublegee, alligator weed, mimosa, sida, salvinia, and water hyacinth. His work has taken him around the world - Africa, SE Asia, PNG and the Americas - as well as across Australia. Mic and his wife Ros are looking forward to the challenges ahead – beginning with a month's immersion in the French language and culture. **Rieks Van Klinken** is now Team Leader of Tropical Weeds Team. **Tim Heard** now has primary responsibility for quarantine and the field station in Mexico, while **Shon** has taken on primary responsibility for aquatic weed research.

Dr Rose De Clerk-Floate is visiting Long Pocket Laboratories from Lethbridge in Canada for a couple of days. Rose is here to discuss a joint paper relating to biocontrol of weeds and also to assist with plans for the construction of a new quarantine facility in Brisbane. **Tim Heard** is leaving soon for Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico searching for biocontrol agents of parkinsonia and bellyache bush.

Below: Visitor Maria Minor with Bruce Halliday in the ANIC mite laboratory, April 2006



Above: Participants in the ISO17025 accreditation workshop held at OAI in May.

After six months working with the Weeds group, **Carly Cook** will be commencing her Ph.D at the University of Queensland, St Lucia. Most recently, **Nancy Schellhorn** completed a fellowship awarded by Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She spent two months there with **Drs. Wopke van der Werf** and **Felix Bianchi**, using spatially explicit models and empirical data to explore how foraging traits of predators and the spatial distribution of prey change foraging performance. As a result of Nancy's visit, a student, **Maarten Vodde**, Wageningen University (WU), has been working with Nancy's group at Long Pocket. Maarten has been investigating whether the key parasitoids and predators of insect pests occur in three distinct habitats, agricultural crops (broccoli and corn), native remnants adjacent to crops and the native remnant / crop edge.

Shon and **Mic** have made significant progress towards management of Cabomba. They have identified the most promising collection sites and found three potential agents. They are currently studying insect life-cycles, identifying methods to rear insects under laboratory conditions, and conducting preliminary host specificity tests at a USDA-ARS lab in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Surveys in Argentina are reaching fruition and they expect to finish the surveys and begin importing insects, starting with the weevil (*Hydrotimetes natans*) into quarantine in Australia in mid-2007. If testing indicates that the weevil is sufficiently host specific, they would request permission to release, mass rear the weevils, and possibly begin making releases at cabomba infested sites in SE Queensland in the spring of 2008. This continued research depends on receiving funding from stakeholders and the federal government.

**Alan Fletcher Research Station,
Queensland Dept of Natural Resources,
Mines & Water, Sherwood:**

Dhileepan visited Tropical Weeds Research Centre (Charters Towers) in June to conduct trials on simulation herbivory and field evaluation of biocontrol agents using pesticide exclusion on prickly acacia, in association with **Cathy Lockett**, **Margie Robinson** and **Pukallus Kelli**. **Mariano Trevino** surveyed parthenium infestations in central Queensland in April to record the establishment and abundance of root-boring moth *Carmenta ithacae*, parthenium summer rust *Puccinia melampodii* and the stem-galling weevil *Conotrachelus albocinereus*.

Liz Snow went on maternity leave in Feb 06. During her absence **Michelle Rafter** is involved in cat's claw creeper leaf-tying moth host specificity tests in quarantine. Michelle has recently completed her honours year and her thesis has just won the Entomological Society students prize. **Deanna Bayliss** is conducting pre-release evaluation of the effectiveness of cat's claw leaf -sucking tingid as a potential biocontrol agent in quarantine. **Alexsis Wilson** has developed a model using CLIMEX to prioritise areas in the native range of cat's claw creeper for future exploration of potential biological control agents. **Andrew Ridley** who has just been awarded his PhD has started as a scientist at the AFRS, working on the biological control of cat's claw creeper and lantana.

Tim Heard, **Rieks VanKlinken** (CSIRO Entomology), **Alexsis Wilson**, **Bill Palmer**, **Gabrielle Vivian-Smith** and **Dhileepan** (AFRS Sherwood) participated in the Biological control of Bellyache bush team meeting held on 2nd May 2006 at AFRS

Sherwood. **Kathyn Conrad** (University of Queensland) completed a CRC Weeds summer fellowship with **Dhileepan** on the pre-release efficacy of the leaf sucking bug *Carvalhotingis visenda* (Tingidae) as a potential biological control agent for cat's claw creeper.

Queensland Museum

After 28 years at the Queensland Museum and a total of 44 years curating Queensland insect collections, **Geoff Monteith** effectively retires 30th June. Geoff will still be coming in as an Honorary but will of course now be able to concentrate on his own research interests. The prodigious hours and effort Geoff has put into building up the collections are legend and his will be a very hard act to follow. We all wish Geoff a very long and happy retirement.
Manoj NAYOK

COMING EVENTS

Australian and New Zealand Entomological Societies Joint Conference

University of Adelaide, South Australia

24-27 September 2006

"Biosecurity - Caring for the Environment and Agriculture"

incorporating
**37th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference 2006 of the
Australian
Entomological Society
and
Entomological Society of New Zealand Annual Meeting 2006**

**REGISTER ON-LINE
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<http://www.aesnzcconference2006.com/>**

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Conference Organiser and Contact:

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2006 AES Illustration Competition

Details of this popular competition are available on the conference website at

<http://www.aesnzcconference2006.com/illustrations.php>

AGM and Council Meetings

Notices and draft agenda for these meetings are posted on the conference website at

<http://www.aesnzcconference2006.com/business-meeting.php>

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

To obtain a nomination form, please download from
<http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/myrmecia/aesmemform.pdf>.

BRAINDRAIN

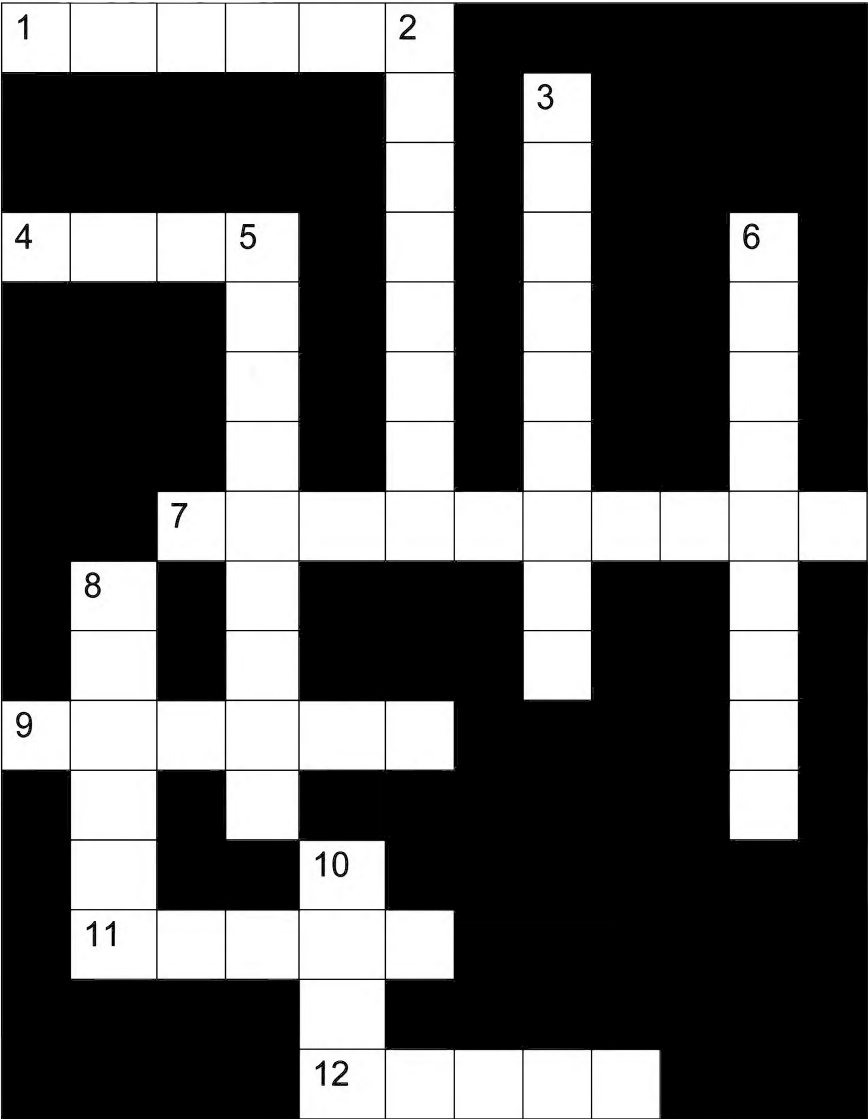
1. Reverse a 'clever' word to spell out Melbourne's track-bound vehicles.
2. Can you find three forms of the verb 'to be' with no letters in common?
3. Complete the following saying (with apologies to John Steinbeck):
'A hangover is the Wrath of _____.'
4. The name for which part of the gastrointestinal tract consists of five different letters in the first half repeated, rearranged, in the second?
5. How many stars in the Milky Way?
 - a. 100 thousand
 - b. 100 million
 - c. 100 billion

Answers next issue of Myrmecia

Answers for last issue

1. pets, step
2. pests
3. they're, there, their
4. Monaco
5. retinal spots

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 _____ *vinitor*
 4 A tree native to India that can be used to make pesticides
 7 A vector of the banana bunchy top virus
 9 All parthenogenic offspring are this
 11 This will kill you (genus)
 12 _____ mone

Down

- 2 A parasitoid is this to its host
 3 These will make you itch (genus)
 5 The _____ medal
 6 What you would have been doing the last two weeks of June if you submitted an ARC grant
 8 _____ *hibisci*
 10 _____ Schuch. A LFHCfS "man-of-the-year"

Answers from last issue;

Across

1. Orange
 3. Ants
 4. Saw
 6. Lea
 8. ANIC
 9. net

Down

1. Orosius
 2. Ganglia
 5. Waite
 7. Ice

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